

Weekly Column for November 2, 2006

It is hard to believe that November is here already. And it was quite a harsh reminder waking up this morning and being shown what is on the way. That's right, snow on the lawn this morning. As I made my way to work I noticed that the downtown was spared this pre-winter surprise, must be nice.

Next week, we will be holding an information session for people interested in becoming homeowners in Troy. The meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 8th from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. It will be held in the City Council chambers on the second floor of City Hall.

The information sessions are being conducted in accordance with new program we unveiled earlier this year, the Homebuyer Investment Program, which aims to make first-time homebuyers out of residents in the City of Troy.

For people that have dreamed of owning a home before, but have been impeded for different reasons, this could be the answer for them. As we move forward in the City of Troy, increasing home ownership is vital to the success and strength of our neighborhoods. I have said this over and over- decreasing the amount of absentee landlords in our City will improve the quality of life for everyone.

Wednesday's meeting will feature a 45-minute power-point presentation from the City of Troy Planning Department, followed by a question and answer period with City staff. At the conclusion of the meeting, interested parties are given applications to bring home and fill out. Once they do that, an appointment is scheduled with the City of Troy for the pre-screening process.

Obviously, we encourage anyone who may be interested in purchasing a home to attend this meeting, which helps in a variety of ways, including down payments. And while there are financial restrictions attached the program, everyone may learn something at these meetings.

Before I go this week, I want to remind everyone that Tuesday is Election Day and that no matter your enrollment, it is important that you do vote- it is the beauty of democracy.

Have a great weekend! Hopefully we can go a few more weeks without seeing any more snow. Right before Christmas would be nice.

Harry J Tutunjian
Mayor of Troy